

U.S. Serial No.: 10/608,899
Filed: June 27, 2003
Group Art Unit: 3738
Examiner: Javier G. Blanco
Atty. Docket No.: 22956-218 (MIT-5010)

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A graft fixation device for fixing a graft member within a bone tunnel, the device comprising:
a bioabsorbable radially expandable sheath having a substantially closed distal end with at least two sidewalls extending proximally therefrom and defining a central lumen, each sidewall having a substantially concave outer surface adapted to seat a graft member, and each sidewall being at least partially separated by a longitudinally oriented ~~slot~~ opening extending from a proximal end along a substantial length of each sidewall and terminating at a position just proximal to the distal end; and
a bioabsorbable sheath expander adapted to be disposed in the central lumen of the radially expandable sheath and configured to flex the sidewalls to radially expand the sheath so as to fix the graft member within a bone tunnel.
2. (Currently Amended) The graft fixation device of claim 1, wherein a distal portion of the radially expandable sheath extending between a distal end of the longitudinally oriented ~~slots~~ openings and a distal end of the radially expandable sheath tapers to form a bullet-shaped distal tip.
3. (Original) The graft fixation device of claim 1, wherein the sheath expander and a distal-most end of the radially expandable sheath each include a lumen extending therethrough for receiving a guide wire.
4. (Original) The graft fixation device of claim 2, wherein the sidewalls each include surface features formed within the concave outer surface thereof.
5. (Previously Presented) The graft fixation device of claim 1, wherein at least two adjacent sidewalls of the expandable sheath are joined at a proximal end thereof by a stop member adapted to prevent over-insertion of the radially expandable sheath into a bone tunnel.
6. (Original) The graft fixation device of claim 1, wherein the sheath expander is a tapered screw.

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7. (Original) The graft fixation device of claim 6, wherein the sheath expander has a largest diameter that is greater than a largest inner diameter of the radially expandable sheath in an unexpanded state.
8. (Original) The graft fixation device of claim 1, wherein the device is formed from a material having one or more polymers or copolymers formed of monomers selected from the group consisting of lactic acid, glycolic acid, and caprolactone.
9. (Original) The graft fixation device of claim 8, wherein the material further comprises tricalcium phosphate.
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Currently Amended) A graft fixation kit for fixing a graft member within a bone tunnel, the kit comprising:
a bioabsorbable expandable sheath having proximal and distal ends with at least two sidewalls extending therebetween and defining a central lumen, each sidewall being at least partially separated by a longitudinally oriented slot-opening extending from the proximal end and terminating at a position just proximal to the distal end, and each sidewall having an outer surface adapted to seat a graft member; and
a plurality of sheath expanders of varying sizes, each being disposable in the central lumen of the expandable sheath and configured to flex the sidewalls to radially expand the sheath so as to fix at least one graft member within a bone tunnel.
12. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 11, wherein the expandable sheath defines a distal tip that tapers from a distal end of each longitudinally oriented slot-opening to the distal end of the expandable sheath.
13. (Original) The kit of claim 12, wherein the distal tip of the expandable sheath is rounded.
14. (Original) The kit of claim 12, wherein the sidewalls of the expandable sheath each include a concave outer surface having surface features formed thereon.

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15. (Original) The kit of claim 11, wherein two adjacent sidewalls of the expandable sheath are joined at a proximal end thereof by a stop member adapted to prevent over-insertion of the expandable sheath into a bone tunnel.
16. (Original) The kit of claim 11, wherein each sheath expander is a tapered screw.
17. (Previously Presented) The kit of claim 16, wherein each sheath expander has a largest diameter that is greater than a largest inner diameter of the radially expandable sheath in an unexpanded state.
- 18-19. (Cancelled)